

# The Bloomfield Record.

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## An Old Man's Dream.

Oh, for one hour of youthful joy!

Give back my twentieth spring!

Id rather laugh a bright haired boy Than reign a gray-headed king.

Off with the wrinkled spots of age!

Away with hearing's feeble power!

Tear out life's wisdom-written page, And cast its trophies down.

One moment let my life blood stream

From boyhood's fount of fame!

Give me one giddy, reeling dream

Of life, of love, and of fame.

My listening angel heard the prayer,

And, calmly smiling, said:

"If I but touch thy silvered hair

Thy hasty wish had sped.

"But is there nothing in the track

To bid thee fondly stay,

While the swift seasons hurry back

To find the wished-for day?"

Ah, truest soul of woman-kind,

Without thee what were life?

One bliss I cannot leave behind—

I'll take my precious wife.

The angel took a sapphire pen

And wrote in rainbow hue:

"The man would be a boy again,

And be a husband too."

"And is there nothing yet unsaid,

Before the change appears?

Remember all thy gifts have fled

With these dissolving years."

"Why, yes, I would one favor more:

My fond paternal joys—

I could not bear to lose them all;

I'll take my girls and boys."

The smiling angel dropped his pen.

And lo! the change appears!

The man would be a boy again,

And be a father too.

And so it happened. My laughter woke

The household with its noise,

I wrote my dream when morning broke.

To please my girls and boys.

—Otter Wendell Holmes.

## The Emerald Ring.

In one of the splendid palaces of

the Russian capital, a fair young girl threw

herself upon the crimson cushions of

the divan in the embrasure of a large

window. Alarm and anxiety were depicted

on her features, and she constantly

clapped and unclapped her small

hands, and nervously arose and looked

out into the street, and then rested

herself as awaiting some painful in-

telligence. It was the fair young

Natalie Radetski, the beauty of the Russian

court, upon which nature and for-

tune had showered every gift, and for

whom even the stern features of the

Emperor Nicholas would relax into

something like a smile as he looked upon

her beauty and grace.

Fastidiously she opened, and a young

man advanced towards her.

"I am to bid you farewell, Natalie,"

he said, in a voice broken by emotion.

"Oh, Alexis! what is it?" cried the

young girl.

"I have displeased the emperor, and

he has ordered my arrest."

"The emperor will pardon you—I

will go to him," said she. "He will not

refuse me. He has always been so kind

to me."

"Alas! my Natalie, he will refuse

you this. The emperor believes me

concerned in a conspiracy, and he never

forgives. I am innocent, but he will

not believe it. I know not what is to

come with me; but if I am sent to

Siberia—

"To Siberia! Oh, Alexis! it cannot

be—it must not be!"

For a moment neither spoke. At

length, with a powerful effort at self-

control, the young man said: "Natalie,

let me place this ring upon your finger,

and promise me that you will wear it

always in memory of what my love has

been to you. The emperor will force

you to marry. I do not wish the

thought of me to make you always

wretched."

He placed upon her finger a ring, in

which was a single emerald of great

brilliance.

"Do not take it off, nor read the in-

scription, till you hear certainly that I

have been banished," he said. A shiver

of horror ran through her frame, but

she went on, bravely: "I will read it; it

## The Texas-Mexican Border.

What is generally known as the

Texas border, says the New Orleans Bu-

letin, extends from the city of Brown-

sville to the Pecos mountains, a distance

of over five hundred miles by land, and

in a direct course. However, the dis-

tance between the two points is not

measured along a straight line, but

by a winding line. The distance

between Brownsville and the Pecos

mountains is about three times the

distance between the two points in a

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## THE NEW TARIFF BILL.

What it Proposes to Do—The

House of Representatives has

passed a bill to amend the

tariff laws, and to provide

for the collection of duties

on imports. The bill is

now in the hands of the

Senate, and is expected to

be passed in a few days.

The bill is a very important

one, and will have a great

effect on the commerce of